

## **North Carolina Fisheries**

**Date of Declaration/Determination:** September 22, 1999

**Location:** Various fisheries (including white shrimp, blue crab, inshore flounder, scallop, oyster, and snapper/grouper fisheries) in North Carolina

**Cause:** Due to impacts of Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd, which affected habitat, created a hypoxic zone, and destroyed fishing infrastructure.

**Authority:** Sec 312(a) of MSA

**Appropriation:** FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental, June 29, 2000--total of \$10.8 million to address impacts of Hurricanes Georges, Mitch, Dennis, and Floyd in Florida and North Carolina; \$6 million identified for North Carolina assistance as this was the amount requested by the Secretary of Commerce.

### **Assistance Provided:**

North Carolina submitted an application for \$5,148,398 in Federal funds since they were unable to secure the 25% match for the full \$6 million. The Federal funds are being used as follows:

\$3,000,000--direct economic relief to licensed seafood dealers, commercial charter and head boat operators, and commercial fishing piers.

\$1.8 million--research on the impacts on fish and crab populations. Projects include:

Assessment of fish populations in Pamlico Sound using fishery-independent means to determine long-term impacts of hurricanes.

Development of accurate latitude/longitude coordinates of approximately 300 shellfish bottom leases, water column leases, and shellfish franchises, since the storms destroyed many of the markers.

Determining female crab migration, determining the impacts of ghost crab pots, and remapping habitats, to evaluate the effect of the hurricanes.

Assessment of resident and anadromous fish populations in the lower Cape Fear River.

Analyzing landings and determining socioeconomic impacts of the storms on commercial fishing.

Mitigation of oyster mortalities and habitat loss by enhancing shellfish sanctuaries, constructing oyster reefs, and enhancing existing reefs.

Projects 2 and 5 have potential impacts on threatened or endangered species, and require consultation under the Endangered Species Act. These projects will not proceed until the consultation is completed.